

Giffards Primary School

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Headteacher
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'Valuing Everyone As Learners'

18th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Christmas is a special time of year and no pandemic is going to stand in the way of us making this a special time of year for the children. Despite the many restrictions placed upon us, we will make sure the children still get to have fun and you will be able to share some of it too albeit in a virtual way. The memories we make stay with us for years and we want the children to make some wonderful lasting memories.

Throughout December - the children will celebrate this special time in a number of different ways, from learning about the true meaning of Christmas, exploring traditions here and in other countries to making decorations and having festive fun. Each day, there will be some different activities/challenges to do in class.

Christmas Jumper Day Friday 11th December – children can wear their Christmas Jumper to school and donations will be collected in aid of Save the Children.

Pantomime and Popcorn - Thursday 10th December - instead of a pantomime visiting the school, we will be watching a virtual pantomime and eating popcorn - oh yes, we will!

Christmas Dinner – The children will still be able to enjoy a full Christmas dinner with festive music playing and wear silly Christmas hats. We will stagger the year groups over 3 days, the children will eat in the dining halls in year group bubbles. Where two bubbles are in the hall at the same time all social distance guidance will be followed. Letter to follow with more details.

Class Christmas Party afternoons – Thursday 17th December, each class will hold their own special Christmas Party with fun games and prizes to be won. The children will be able to come into school in their party clothes – but flat sensible shoes please as they will still be going out to play. We are unable to accept food into school, **we will** provide the children with a drink and party snacks, please do not send in any food. We are asking for a minimum donation of £2 to cover food, this will also help subsidise the pantomime and popcorn costs. Payment can be made on your SCOPay account. If your child has developed any food allergies that we have not been made aware of please do contact us.

Christmas Present Wrap - This year the Giffards Fundraising Team are going to be holding a special Christmas Wrap on **Tuesday 8th December**. This special event will allow the children to buy surprise gifts for that special someone for Christmas. All gifts cost £2 and will be beautifully wrapped; after choosing their gift, children will be able to write their own tag and then take their gift home the same day. We believe the children will really enjoy picking out a gift themselves for a special Mum, Dad, Nan, Grandad, Aunt or Uncle to name but a few. A letter has already gone out about this on 4th November including how payment should be made. A further copy is attached to this letter for your convenience.

Giffards Primary School is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 8920008
The registered office is at Queen Elizabeth Drive, Corringham, Essex, SS17 7TG



Christmas Performances – Each class will still be creating a festive performance for parents. We are sorry you can't join in school to watch, but these will be recorded and posted on our website for families to enjoy. They will not be in the same league as a 'Spielberg' production, as we are doing them ourselves due to restrictions – I'm sure the odd wobbly footage will just add to the occasion. All children will take part in rehearsals but only children who have parental consent will be filmed – **please see details below about parental consent.** To ensure the privacy and safety of pupils, no names will be displayed but pupil images will be clearly seen via the website link.

Traditionally we would have had a collection in school at the end of each performance; if you would like to make a donation to the school once you have seen the performances, there will be a link on your SCOPay account for it.

Christmas Cards – Unfortunately, due to current restrictions and guidelines, the children will be unable to send Christmas cards at school this year, Instead of sending individual Christmas cards to everyone in their class and friends across the school, each class will make and collectively send a card to other classes, these will be displayed and shared in each classroom. Each child will also be making a card to bring home – please look surprised!

Christmas Gifts – we know how generous you all are, especially at Christmas when so many gifts are given to the staff, however sadly gifts will be unable to be accepted this year so we will set up an Amazon Wishlist with books that are used in school for those that want to say thank you with a gift (details to follow). We wish you all a very Merry Christmas

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Haslam-Davis

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Consent details

If our records show you have **not** previously given consent, you will receive a groupcall asking whether you would like to give a one off consent for your child to be part of the performance recording that will be uploaded to our website. Please make sure you respond with your consent by **Wednesday 25th November 2020** if you do wish them to be included.

If you do not receive a groupcall, then our records show we already have your consent. However if you do **not** wish your child to be part of the performance recording, please contact admin@giffardsprimary.thurrock.sch.uk by **Wednesday 25th November**.

All replies to be received by **Wednesday 25th November 2020**

If you would like any further details please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Haslam-Davis
Headteacher

